



**WASHINGTON STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
(SERC)
MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chief Bill Whealan, SERC Chair
Assistant Chief Mike Harris, SERC Vice-Chair
John Butler, Primary Washington State Department of Ecology
Chris Utzinger, Primary Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division
John Wheeler, Primary Westside LEPC Representative
Sean Davis, Primary Eastside LEPC Representative
Richard Schroedel, Primary Local Emergency Management Representative
John Himmel, Primary Washington State Department of Transportation

ALTERNATE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Felczak, Alternate Westside LEPC Representative
Jeremy Beck, Alternate Eastside LEPC Representative

GUESTS PRESENT:

Suzanne Powers, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Idell Hansen, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Peter Phillips, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Bob Hales, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Kathleen LeGreid, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Justin Piper, Burlington Northern Santa FeDon Lofgren, Washington State Department of Labor and Industries

SERC SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT:

Sadie Whitener, Washington State Department of Ecology
Ron Bowen, Washington State Patrol, State Fire Marshal's Office
Chris Moores, Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division
Lorri Gifford, Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division

CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTION:

Chief Whealan called the meeting to order at 10:05, and all those in attendance introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

John Butler, (Ecology) made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 13, 2012 (Attachment #1). Motion unanimously approved.



NEW BUSINESS

Chief Whealan changed the order of the agenda to have the Burlington Northern Santa Fe presentation first. Justin Piper of Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railways provided an overview PowerPoint presentation on BNSF's HazMat processes, procedures and what assistance BNSF can offer to the SERC and first responders. (Attachment #2 – BNSF Presentation)

WORKGROUP REPORTS:

Training Coordination – Ron Bowen, Washington State Patrol

Statewide Training – Overall training attendance is up this year. Classes are filled up and all seems to be going well.

HAMMER Workshop – Registration and hotel rooms still open and available.

LEPC-Tribal Conference – Registration and hotel rooms are still open and available. The conference is scheduled for May 14 -16 at Campbell's in Chelan.

Washington Fire Chiefs HazMat Conference – The annual Hazardous Materials and Special Operations Conference has been moved from May to August 19-22, 2013. Planning is on-going. Classes planned include Mike Callan's updated Street Smart Hazmat; a booming class with ability to practice off boats on the Columbia River, 10th Civil Support teaching Suspect Decontamination, Understanding Middle Eastern Culture; HazMat Toxicology and many others. Registration and course information will be out soon

For further information, contact Mr. Ron Bowen at 360.596.3923 or email: ron.bowen@wsp.wa.gov.

EPCRA Compliance – Sadie Whitener, Department of Ecology

Ecology staff was very successful with promotion efforts for the Tier Two Online reporting application this year. To date, businesses have reported over 13,000 chemicals stored at 3,200 sites statewide via the online application. Some reporters continue to submit paper reports to the SERC and Ecology staff will continue to encourage reporters to use the online application. Online reporting allows us to identify delinquent reporters sooner for potential enforcement or compliance assistance and to respond to data requests earlier in the year than previous reporting years. To date, the SERC has received EPCRA reports from over 150 new businesses and 86 Tier Two Exemption Notifications were submitted due to changes in business activities. Businesses are still required to submit signed reports to LEPCs and local fire departments and the online application does have a reminder for them.



EPCRA Compliance – Sadie Whitener, Department of Ecology (cont)

Brian Felczak asked if the SERC had made a decision at a previous meeting regarding EPA's new reporting form. Chief Whealan acknowledged that there had been discussion on this topic, but no action was taken at the September meeting. Sadie explained that Washington has not and does not currently use the federal Tier Two – Emergency & Hazardous Chemical Inventory form. The current Washington form includes and a state Community Right-to-Know number and

actual pounds for chemicals stored, which the SERC adopted in 2005. Sadie and Suzanne shared some of the concerns that had been conveyed to EPA Headquarters by SERCs and EPA regional staff prior to the release of the Federal Register. One of the issues several states have with the new EPA form is that there are several new fields that do not benefit the state and this report does not go to the EPA. All of the changes would require Ecology to modify their the EPCRA Tracking System and the online reporting application as well as increasing staff workload due to confusion about the new fields and reporting range codes, which they do not have funding to support. Sadie estimates redesigning these applications would cost \$150,000 - \$200,000. Business' compliance history for all reporting requirements to the SERC are maintained in the EPCRA Tracking System.

Brian Felczak asked if the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP) grant could cover costs for modification to Ecology's applications and was told that would not be an eligible project.

Suzanne Powers suggested that the SERC could use EPlan, which is managed by the University of Texas – Dallas. Eplan is a national resource for local emergency managers and first responders to access a variety of chemical storage and release information.. Suzanne suggested looking into this as an option and possibly other systems that are already out there.

Suzanne noted that the Washington SERC went on record against the new EPA form, but that did not seem to make a difference with the final regulatory changes. When asked if EPA would continue enforcement activities for businesses that fail to submit Tier Two reports if the SERC decided not to adopt the new federal form, she responded that she believed EPA would continue enforcement activities. Chief Whealan asked that this topic be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Sadie was asked to provide more information at that time.

For further information, contact Ms. Sadie Whitener at 360.407.6729 or email: swhi461@ecy.wa.gov.

NEW BUSINESS (cont):

2013-2014 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP) – Lorri Gifford, WA EMD

A presentation was given highlighting the HMEP grant guidance for the 2013-2014 (FFY14). EMD has sent out the new format applications with a due date of April 5, 2013. Washington State's application is due to US Department of Transportation by April 19, 2013. (Attachment #3 – 2013-2014 HMEP Grant Guidance presentation)



Question was asked if EMD sent an application to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for public education and the answer was not yet but we will. Barb Thurman normally is the contractor for this work.

For further information, contact Lorri Gifford at 253.512.7140 or email: lorri.gifford@mil.wa.gov

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Tribal Representation on the SERC – Chris Utzinger, WA EMD

WAC 118-40-040 established SERC membership. In order to legally add a tribal representative position, the WAC would have to be modified. The SERC created a workgroup to review and bring back recommendations on this topic. The workgroup has not met yet, but the current law states the SERC shall seek the attendance and active participation of representatives of Tribal Emergency Response Commission(s).

Strategic Planning – Chief Whealan, SERC Chair

Emergency Management Council (EMC) is working on their Strategic Plan and since the SERC falls under the EMC there is no point in working on the SERC Strategic Plan until EMC's plan is completed. SERC wants to ensure that their plan is aligned with EMC.

Question regarding the status of the EMC. It was rumored that the EMC may be disbanded, but that rumor is not true. The EMC is still together and working. SERC Chair Chief Whealan will be attending the EMC meetings and reporting back to the SERC.

Environmental Protection Agency Guidance - Suzanne Powers, EPA

An EPA Guidance sheet was passed out as a handout. (Attachment #4)

NEXT MEETING:

May 14, 2013 at 10:00 am, Campbell's Resort at Lake Chelan

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned by Chief Whealan.